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Docket No. CHMP-102



#15/Response
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kenneth A. Pieroni et al.)
)
Serial No.: 09/348,320) Examining Attorney: Charles D. Garber
)
Filing Date: July 7, 1999)
) Group Art Unit: 2856
For: SMOKE AND CLEAN AIR)
GENERATING MACHINE FOR)
DETECTING THE PRESENCE)
AND LOCATION OF LEAKS)
)
_____)

COMMUNICATION

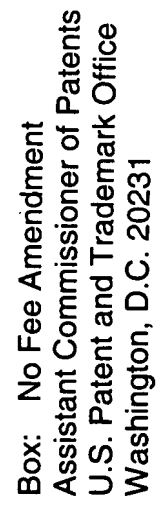
Box: No Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in reply to the Office Action dated May 17, 2002 for the above-identified patent application. The claims remaining for examination herein are claims 1, 3, 19 and 21-24. Claims 19 and 21-24 are indicated to be allowed. Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected.

In particular, claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over the patent to Pieroni et al (5,922,944) in view of the newly cited technical publication by Gilles et al. However, this rejection is respectfully traversed as a matter of law. As noted by the

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